12/30/75

JL,

Maybe with this you should star a Qui!

What I think did not register on you, or didn't fully, is what I regard as the importantance of my second conversation with Shales. I called him when I realized that he had asked me nothing abiut myself, my work, etc., and wondered about his purposes. I told him this and said my purpose in calling was so he could ask me anything he wanted to know about me, check anything, etc.

He declined, saying he had what he wanted or needed.

So, there is no excuse for his inaccuracies, if they are no more, and clear intent.

It is not only that he had the obligation of checking what others said, which he did. I called him, not knowing the scurrility he planned, and offered him the declined opportunity.

Or, his quoting of sources is irrelevant. They may all have said what he says they said. But saying the world if lat doesn't mean it is.

There was a time when a woman at Qui! phoned me about something. She said the Shales piece was in the legal dept., with problems. Or, again they knew and the best they can argue is that they tried to skirt legal responsibility, which still bears on intent.

There is also a clue in Shales saying that we filed for $300,000 and that we filed but one suit. The second suit only was in that range and I did not know the figure, did not tell him, and I don't think it is assassinologist folklore.

As I remember it the first was for something like $15,000. (I had nothing to do with either figure so I don't recall either.)

Moreover, when one of their authors says I am in a class by myself and the other says I'm the world's worst bastard and they claim non-fiction, they have a question of fact where error can be libellous I think they have the obligation to resolve. I don't think they can argue they presented both sides. Truth has only one.

They have another problem. Of all the people in the world their owner could hire as the expert to be their consultant on this subject, I'm the one.

I'd start a separate file if I were you. There are going to be enough of these in time to attract the kind of expertise we need. So much can't be mere coincidence. Were it what reasonable person could believe it?

Best,